

this country. People become disgusted ; they see the debt piling up ; they see the taxation from customs increasing ; they see the inordinate increase in the expenditure ; they see the Government carrying out the policy of bribing constituencies by Act of Parliament at wholesale, and bribing them by means of armies of hoodlums at retail ; they see the corruption pervading every department of the Government ; and our people are leaving the country in disgust. It is useless to talk of redeeming this country by appropriations for immigration, as long as these giant evils drive the population from the country. Now, the National Policy, so far as fiscal reasons can be assigned, has produced very grievous results in this country. It has failed to redeem one single promise made in its behalf when it went into operation, not giving us, for instance, a home market—

Mr. FOSTER. I do not like to interrupt the hon. gentleman. I know that his discussion is pleasant to himself, and at another time it might be quite in order ; but I do not see that it is in order to-night, on an item for immigration, to go into a discussion of the general policy of the Government.

Mr. CHARLTON. This opens a wide field. Here is an appropriation for the purpose of adding to the population and prosperity of this country. Am I to be told that it is out of order to point out that while we are endeavouring to bring people into the country the Government are pursuing a policy which tends to drive them out ? Surely the point of order taken by the Minister of Finance is not well taken in this instance.

Now we will go on to discuss the question, how we can increase the population and prosperity of this country. We will soon point out to these hon. gentlemen the mistakes they have made ; we will go on to exhort them to adopt an efficient policy for retaining and increasing our population ; and all this will be strictly in order. The National Policy, I was about to say, has been, not a promoter of immigration, but a great immigration agent for the country across the line ; and if our friends opposite wish to go out of the business of acting as immigration agents for the United States, there are certain things they want to do. Of course, an appropriation for bringing immigrants to pass through our country to the United States is one thing ; but they had better adopt some plan to retain those people when they arrive here, and it is quite in order to discuss that. As I was about to say, the National Policy has been—

Mr. CHAIRMAN (Mr. SPROULE). I think I must ask the hon. gentleman to confine himself to the item under consideration, which is a vote of \$1,400 for agents at Montreal and Quebec.

Mr. CHARLTON. We are dealing with the whole subject of the immigration appropriation.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. I think that an old parliamentarian like the hon. member can hardly excuse himself by saying that he is dealing directly with the question of immigration, when he is discussing the National Policy.

Mr. CHARLTON. Well, Mr. Chairman, if you upon your honour as a gentleman and in your position as chairman of this committee, will risk your reputation by asserting that the National Policy has nothing to do with peopling this country or

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driving people from this country and has no bearing on the question before us to-night, then I shall have to sit down. But I think I am in order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. I must say that is my ruling, whether I am sustained by the House or not.

Mr. CHARLTON. Very well, we will pass to another subject, the subject of taxation, which may possibly have some bearing on the question of retaining our population or offering inducements to people to come and settle in the country. Under the customs law of this country—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. CHARLTON—we have taken out of the pockets of the people by customs taxes in the last ten years, \$227,000,000.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. I think the hon. gentleman is wandering into another subject which is just as irrelevant to the question as the one he left.

Mr. CHARLTON. Very well, Mr. Chairman, we will take up another subject. I must confess that I am surprised that an old member of this House, in attempting to deal with the question under discussion, and in pointing out facts entirely pertinent to the case, should be ruled out of order in the arbitrary manner in which you have ruled me out on this occasion.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order. Apologize.

Mr. CHARLTON. I will apologize to the extent that I do not suppose the chairman would be intentionally arbitrary, but he has ruled me out in a manner which I hold, from my standpoint, to be arbitrary. Now, Sir, I come to another feature of the Government's policy which undoubtedly has very great influence upon the question of the desirability of this country as a place of residence, that is, the policy which places the settler, the labourer and the producer at a great disadvantage in the cost of everything they have to purchase. For instance, when the purchaser spends \$2.25 for coal oil, he gets only a dollar's worth. When the farmer wishes to purchase barbed wire, he pays \$1.50 for a dollar's worth. When he purchases binding twine, the policy of the Government compels him to pay \$1.40 for a dollar's worth. If he wants to buy a fork, he pays \$1.50 for what he would get for a dollar but for the policy of the Government. If he wants to buy spades he pays \$1.50 where he would otherwise only pay a dollar. He pays \$1.50 for a dollar's worth of nails, \$1.35 for a dollar's worth of cotton, \$1.35 for a dollar's worth of earthenware, from \$1.40 to \$1.80 for a dollar's worth of woollen goods, and so on. I will not weary you, as you may think me out of order, by going extensively into this matter. When the farmer settles his store bill at the end of the year he pays \$140 for what he would get for \$100 but for the policy of the Minister of Finance. The result is, that during the past ten years the people of this country have had to pay in customs taxation \$227,000,000, and probably twice as much more in incidental taxation to private interests, or a total of \$454,000,000 incidental tax added to the direct tax. This amounts to \$150 per head for the last ten years for every man, woman and child in the country from direct and indirect taxation ; and that has something to do with the question of peopling this country, and promoting its prosperity, and it is the policy pursued by hon. gentlemen opposite which has brought this country